

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185442

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR CHIEF OF MISSION FROM ACTING ASST SECRETARY BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AODE, AFSP, APER

SUBJECT: MODE STAFF REDUCTIONS

1. AS 3 BUREAU PREPARES, WITHIN MODE GUIDELINES, TO MAKE
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT ELIMINATING AMERICAN AND LO-
CAL POSITIONS FROM VARIOUS AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT CEILINGS
THROUGHOUT ARA, WE WISH TO CONSULT WITH YOU ONCE MORE
TO OBTAIN YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCURRENCES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MODE REQUESTS SENT TO YOU IN RECENT
MONTHS, YOU IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND LOCAL
POSITIONS WHICH COULD BE ELIMINATED WITHOUT DETRIMENT
TO THE CONDUCT OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. AS YOU
KNOW, AT HIS MARCH 13 CABINET MEETING, PRESIDENT CARTER
REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO MAKE A SELECTIVE REDUCTION OF
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PERSONNEL SERVING UNDER DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION ABROAD.
ACCORDINGLY, LETTERS WERE SENT TO THE CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS
AND AGENCIES SUMMARIZING THE STAFF REDUCTIONS YOU RECOMMEND-
ED AND REQUESTING THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT THESE
REDUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY BY SEPTEMBER 30,
1978. THE PROPOSED STAFF REDUCTIONS IN QUESTION, AND THE
VARIOUS RESPONSES TO THEM SO FAR ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

PROPOSED REDUCTIONS

U.S. FSL

AID 1 (PROJECT SPECIALIST)
ICA 1 (CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER) 3 (ICA EMPLOYERS)
AGRICULTURE/FAS 1 (AGRI SPECIALIST)
LEGAL ATTACHE 1 (ASSISTANT LEGAL ATTACHE)

AGENCY RESPONSE

AID

AID CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDATION TO ABOLISH 1 FSL POSITION.

ICA

ICA DOES NOT CONCUR WITH THE REDUCTION OF THE AMERICAN POSITION BUT STATED THAT THE FSL REDUCTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED. ICA STATED THAT IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU DO NOT CONSIDER THE AMERICAN POSITION CONFIDENTIAL

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"SUPERFLUOUS" AND INDEED WOULD FAVOR INCREASING THE ICA AMERICAN COMPLEMENT BY ONE.

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE DOES NOT CONCUR WITH THE ELIMINATION OF ONE FSL. AGRICULTURE MENTIONS THAT ARGENTINA HAS ONE OF THE HEAVIEST REPORTING SCHEDULES IN THEIR SERVICE.

JUSTICE

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO DEFER DEFINITIVE ACTION REDUCING THE ASSISTANT LEGAL ATTACHE UNTIL THEIR RECENT INSPECTION HAS BEEN FULLY ANALYZED. THE BUREAU CONSIDERS THIS REASONABLE, PROVIDING A DECISION IS REACHED PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 1978.

3. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OTHER POSITIONS YOU PROPOSED REDUCING. UPON RECEIPT OF THEIR RESPONSES THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THEIR VIEWS AND SOLICIT YOUR FINAL COMMENTS.

4. IN REVIEWING THESE RESPONSES, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR
TO BE ANY OVERWHELMING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF RETAINING
THE POSITIONS IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO
RECEIVE YOUR FINAL COMMENTS IN LIGHT OF THE AGENCY
REPLIES. VANCE

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